THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE COUNTIES OF

SALOP AND MONTGOMERY,

AND FOR

THE BOROUGH OF MUCH WENLOCK.

1847.

SHREWSBURY:

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SALOP AND MONTGOMERY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

At the date of the Medical Superintendent's Second Annual Report,—viz. on the 28th of March, 1847, the number of Patients remaining in the Asylum was 113;—viz. 57 Males and 56 Females. As it has been considered advisable, however, that Annual Reports should be drawn up without regard to the period of the year at which the Asylum was opened, and in reference only to the circumstances of the Institution between the 1st of January and the 31st of December in each year respectively, it is proper to state in this place that the events previously recorded as belonging to the first three months of the year 1847, are included in the present statement; and that the numbers of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths between the 1st of January and the 28th of March, 1847, having been as follows;—Admitted, Males 13, Females 9; Discharged Recovered, Males 3, Females 7; Dead, Males 2, Females 0; the number of Patients in the Asylum on the 1st of January, 1847, was consequently 103;—viz. 49 Males and 54 Females.

Since the 1st of January 1847, 70 Patients,—viz. 42 Males & 28 Females have been admitted; 29,—viz. 11 Males and 18 Females have been discharged Recovered; 2,—viz. 1 Male and

1 Female have been discharged Relieved; 1 Male has been discharged unimproved; 16,—viz. 13 Males and 3 Females have Died; and 125,—viz. 65 Males and 60 Females, remain.

The average number resident during the year 1847, was 117.78; so that the proportion of deaths (16 : 117.78.) is expressed by the number 13.69 per cent.

With respect to the extended arrangements which have been required for improving the general accommodations of the Asylum, and more particularly for affording the means of properly classifying the Patients, the principal works are as yet only in their preparatory stage, and some time must necessarily elapse before the advantages which cannot fail to accrue from their completion will be available. In the course of the past year, however, several alterations have been made in the arrangements of the original edifice which have contributed materially to increase the comfort of the Patients, to improve the means of attendance, and to obviate serious defects in the drainage. Among the most important of these changes are to be enumerated the formation of two galleries, on the first floor of the building, which respectively extend from end to end of each main wing, without any encroachment having been made by this alteration on the space required for other purposes; and the division of two large and inconvenient apartments on the ground floor, which has not only afforded such suitable sleeping accommodation as was badly wanted for the use of convalescent and other quiet patients to whom freedom from annoyance during the night is of the greatest importance, but has furnished space for two convenient general Washing Rooms, as well as for a Dining Room in each wing for the Attendants.

The only means which have been hitherto employed for obtaining a supply of water have never been adequate to the necessities of the Institution, and the inconveniences resulting from this circumstance have been manifold. The constant necessity of

working at the pump capstan, and with machinery which is capable of raising no more than four gallons of water per minute, may readily be conceived to have no beneficial influence on those Patients who are usually engaged in this drudgery; and the substitution of steam power for human labour in this case will at once remove the difficulty which consists in such a choice of evils as that between an irksome and unsuitable kind of occupation on the one hand, and a scanty provision of water where the drainage absolutely requires an unusually abundant supply on the other.

On the subjects of employments and active amusements for the Patients, little is to be added to the information communicated in previous Reports, more particularly as the acquisition of the latter advantages will depend in a great measure on the arrangement of the ground intended for the new exercising Courts. The introduction of a better supply of entertaining books and the regular perusal of newspapers have contributed greatly to increase the comfort of the Wards; and the establishment of a few reading and writing classes has been productive of very decided benefits. Dancing parties have not only been more attractive, but have been much more frequent than formerly, in consequence of the admission of two Patients who perform well on the violin.

Much vigilance and attention have been required to counteract the facility of making escapes by means of loose planks and other articles of a similar kind which are needed in the erection of the new wing; and in spite of every precaution three individuals have thereby succeeded in climbing over the boundary wall and in getting clear off for a time. The privilege of walking into the country on Sundays, and at certain other times, has only been abused for the same purpose by two individuals during the whole of the time which has elapsed since the opening of the Asylum.

In addition to the foregoing observations, the Medical Superintendent would beg to direct the attention of the Magistrates, and through them that of the Parochial Authorities, and of the Public

generally, to the well known but sometimes unfortunately disregarded necessity of removing persons afflicted with insanity to Asylums in the earliest stage of their disease. The annexed table (which exhibits the duration of the malady at the time of admission in all the cases which have been discharged recovered between the 28th of March, 1845, when the Asylum was opened, and the 31st of December, 1847,) shows that out of 51 discharges, 37 were cases in which the individuals had not been affected for a longer time than three months, whilst only eight had suffered under the malady for more than twelve months. Coinciding as it does with the general results of experience in other Asylums, the statement here made may possibly serve to set this important circumstance in a clearer light than it is generally viewed in, and may tend, it is hoped, to lessen that hesitation as to the removal of Patients to Asylums, which is too commonly felt by their friends, as well as by other parties who are interested in their recovery.

TABLE exhibiting the Duration of the Malady at the time of Admission in the cases which have been discharged Recovered, between the 28th of March, 1845, when the Asylum was opened, and the 31st of December, 1847.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Less than 1 month.....	6	10	16
..... 2 months ...	3	6	9
..... 3 months ...	2	4	6
..... 6 months ...	4	2	6
..... 12 months ...	4	2	6
More than 1 year.....	1	3	4
..... 2 years	1	2	3
..... 10 years	0	1	1
	21	30	51

Signed

RICHARD OLIVER, M.D.

Bicton, January 1st, 1848.

1. TABLE exhibiting the Number of Patients in the Asylum, with the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, during the Year ending December 31, 1847.

	Remaining January 1st, 1847.	Admitted.	Discharged Recovered.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unimproved.	Died.	Remaining Dec. 31, 1847.
MALES...	49	42	11	1	1	13	65
FEMALES	54	28	18	1	0	3	60
TOTAL.....	103	70	29	2	1	16	125

2. TABLE exhibiting the conditions of Celibacy, Marriage, and Widowhood of the Patients admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single	19	9	28
Married	16	16	32
Widowed	7	3	10

3. TABLE exhibiting the Ages of the Patients admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 15	0	1	1
Between 15 & 20	2	0	2
... 20 & 25	1	2	3
... 25 & 30	5	3	8
... 30 & 35	6	5	11
... 35 & 40	8	5	13
... 40 & 45	4	3	7
... 45 & 50	2	4	6
... 50 & 55	5	2	7
... 55 & 60	1	0	1
... 60 & 65	3	0	3
... 65 & 70	2	1	3
Above 70	3	2	5

4. TABLE exhibiting the Duration of the Malady in the cases admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Less than 1 month	10	8	18
..... 2 months.....	7	5	12
..... 3 months.....	3	2	5
..... 6 months.....	3	1	4
..... 9 months.....	2	2	4
More than 1 year	4	2	6
..... 2 years.....	4	1	5
..... 3 years.....	0	1	1
..... 4 years.....	0	1	1
..... 5 years.....	0	1	1
..... 6 years.....	1	0	1
..... 7 years.....	1	0	1
..... 10 years.....	1	1	2
..... 14 years.....	1	0	1
During life.....	2	0	2
Unascertained	3	3	6

5. TABLE exhibiting the Duration of the Malady at the time of admission in the Cases Discharged Recovered, during the year ending December 31, 1847.

Less than 1 month	5	7	12
..... 2 months.....	1	4	5
..... 3 months.....	1	4	5
..... 6 months.....	1	2	3
..... 9 months.....	2	0	2
More than 1 year	1	0	1
..... 3 years.....	1	0	1
..... 10 years.....	0	1	1
	*12	*18	30

** One Man and one Woman who eventually Recovered, but who at the time of their Discharge were only relieved, are included in these numbers

6. TABLE exhibiting the Occupations of the Patients admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
Blacksmiths	2	0	Labourers	15	0
Bleacher	1	0	Labourers, Wives of	0	7
Bonnet-maker	0	1	Labourer, Widow of	0	1
Carpenter	1	0	Painter.....	1	0
Carpet-weavers	2	0	Potter.....	1	0
Colliers	5	0	Schoolmistress	0	1
Colliers, Wives of...	0	2	Servants, Domestic.	1	5
Dress-maker	0	1	Shoemakers	3	0
Farmers.....	2	0	Shoemakers, Son of	1	0
Farmers, Daughters of.....	0	2	Shoemakers, Wives of	0	2
Farmers, Widow of	0	1	Tailors	2	0
Farrier	1	0	Tinman	1	0
Gamekeeper, Wife of.....	0	1	Washerwoman.....	0	1
Groom	1	0	Waterman	2	0
Grooms, Wives of...	0	2	Wheelwright, Wife of	0	1

7. TABLE exhibiting the Amount of Education in the Cases admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Well educated.....	0	2	2
Moderately educated	4	2	6
Can read and write.....	15	9	24
Can read only	15	7	22
Cannot read.....	8	7	15
Unknown.....	0	1	1

8. TABLE exhibiting the supposed Causes of the Malady in the Cases admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Accident producing Blindness and its depressing consequences	1	0	1
Accident, maiming, and inducing consequent Poverty	1	0	1
Age	2	2	4
Alarm	1	0	1
Anæmia	0	3	3
Anæmia complicated with Pregnancy	0	1	1
Anxiety	2	3	5
Application to Business	0	1	1
Cerebral Developement Imperfect	2	0	2
Cerebral Disease	2	0	2
Critical Period of Life	0	1	1
Disappointments	1	0	1
Domestic Troubles	3	0	3
Epilepsy	1	2	3
Fever and Subsequent Anxiety	0	1	1
*Hereditary Predisposition without other obvious cause..	3	4	7
Intemperance	7	0	7
Poverty	5	4	9
Prostitution	0	1	1
Puerperal State under distressing circumstances	0	1	1
Shock from Bad News..	0	1	1
Unascertained	11	3	14
* Number of Cases in which Hereditary Predisposition is traceable	4	11	15

9. TABLE exhibiting the Number of Attacks of the Malady in the Cases admitted during the year ending December 31, 1847.

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th	5th	6th	Unascertained.	Congenital.
Males	29	4	2	1	0	1	3	2
Females	19	2	3	0	1	0	3	0
Total	48	6	5	1	1	1	6	2

10. TABLE exhibiting the Forms of the Malady in the cases admitted during the year ended December 31, 1848.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania	6	9	15
Monomania (including Melancholia)	19	13	32
Moral Insanity	0	1	1
Dementia	14	5	19
Congenital Imbecility ..	2	0	2
Transient Delirium	1	0	1

11. TABLE exhibiting the causes of Death in the cases which terminated fatally during the year ended December 31, 1847.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anæmia	3	1	4
Brain, Chronic Disease of	3	0	3
——————— with General Paralysis	1	0	1
Diarrhea	1	1	2
Exhaustion from protracted Excitement	2	1	3
Hydrothorax, Albuminuria, Cerebral Disease ..	1	0	1
Phthisis	1	0	1
Pulmonary Apoplexy	1	0	1

AN ACCOUNT

OF ALL MONIES RECEIVED OR PAID

BY THE TREASURER,

OR OTHERWISE, ON ACCOUNT

OF THE

SALOP AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31ST, 1847.

RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
To Cash per Unions and Parishes contributing to the Asylum, for the Maintenance, &c. of Patients						
In the County of Salop.....	2519	18	0			
Ditto ditto Montgomery.....	371	15	3			
Ditto Salop County Treasurer for Patients chargeable to the County	155	6	3			
Ditto found in the possession of two Patients	33	18	2			
				3080	17	8
Carried forward...				3080	17	8

PAYMENTS.

BY SALARIES AND WAGES.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Medical Officer and Matron, ($1\frac{1}{4}$ year) at £300 per annum, less maintenance of family	293	18	9			
Clerk	50	0	0			
Chaplain	47	14	0			
Chief Attendant	32	3	0			
Five Attendants	103	1	0			
Four Nurses	41	17	4			
Cook and Laundress, at £13 each	26	0	0			
Kitchen Maid, ($\frac{1}{4}$ year)	1	10	0			
Gate Keeper	3	10	0			
Washer Woman	2	3	0			
Semstress (making clothes, &c.)	11	7	6			
Gardener	0	6	2			
				613	10	9
PROVISIONS, &c.						
Bread and Flour	488	12	0			
Butchers' Meat	367	15	7			
Butter, Cheese, and Bacon	172	12	3			
Grocery, Soap, and Candles	217	15	10			
Beer and Ale	229	6	0			
Wines and Spirits	13	4	0			
Potatoes, and other Vegetables	91	6	0			
Milk and Fresh Butter	53	15	2			
American Beans and Pea Flour	25	18	2			
				1660	5	0
NECESSARIES.						
Coals, Coke, and Cordwood	191	3	8			
Oil and Champhine	31	4	9			
				222	8	5
Carried forward...				2496	4	2

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
By Amount brought forward		3080 17 8
Balance due to Treasurer December 31, 1847.....		74 15 3
		3155 12 11

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
By Amount brought forward				2496	4	2
CLOTHING AND BEDDING.						
Draper	74	14	2			
Shoemakers and Leather	28	1	2			
Hats and Caps	13	18	2			
Tailors' Work	29	17	6			
				146	11	0
MISCELLANEOUS.						
Drugs, &c.	28	16	0			
Funerals	23	16	0			
Carpenter's Work	24	14	2			
Glazing and Painting.....	45	19	4			
Ironmongery	56	5	2			
Books, Printing, and Advertisements ...	43	2	9			
Tin Goods	22	16	11			
Mats, Brushes, Brooms, &c.	15	3	0			
Timber Merchant for Boards, &c.	13	7	1			
Earthenware	5	3	6			
Leather and Buckles, &c., for Beds for Infirmary.....	3	10	0			
Nursery and Seedsman	9	15	6			
Water Cart and Cartage.....	5	0	3			
Rates and Taxes	8	11	0			
Sundry Payments by the Matron for the Year.....	24	19	8			
Ditto Ditto Clerk	8	3	11			
Purchase of Store Pigs	20	10	0			
				359	14	3
Total Payment for the Year ...				3002	9	5
Balance due to the Treasurer, January 1st, 1847.....				153	3	6
				3155	12	11

THOMAS EVEREST, Clerk.